



2007

November

At Capilano College our mission is to enable student success.



Visiting NWCCU members include, **back row**, left to right: Dr. Laird Hartman, dean of Continuing Education and Community Services, Weber State University, Ogden, Utah; Dr. Betty Elliott, professor of Biological Sciences, Great Basin College, Elko, Nevada; Becky Smith, department chair, Computer Info Services, Dixie State College of Utah, St. George, Utah; Dr. Jay Kenton, vice chancellor for Finance and Administration, Oregon University System, Corvallis, Oregon; Karen Johnson, dean for Developmental Education, Edmonds Community College, Lynnwood, Washington; Richard Cummins, executive vice president, Columbia Basin College, Pasco, Washington; Linda Maier, dean for Workforce Education, Whatcom Community College, Bellingham, Washington; Dr. Max Checketts (evaluation team chair), Academic vice president, Brigham Young University—Idaho, Rexburg, Idaho. **Front row**, left to right: Dr. Laura Polcyn, assistant to the president, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington; Robert Carr, special assistant to the chancellor, Montana State University—Billings; Patricia Kelley, dean of Libraries, Eastern Washington University, Cheney, Washington; Dr. Sandra Elman, president, NWCCU; Dr. Susan Murray, executive director, Institutional Effectiveness, Wenatchee Valley College, Wenatchee, Washington.

A step in the right direction

While Capilano looks at the term “accreditation” as a means of quality assurance, particularly for international students, **Sandra Elman** sees it as an alternate path to global accord.

“I’m a great proponent on issues of international peace,” said the president of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. “I really see this accreditation process as one means for two neighbouring countries to promote connectivity, global awareness and expectations for global justice in ways we’ve never done before.”

This out of the box perspective is a personal passion for Sandra, who spends a great deal of her time either visiting the 160 NWCCU accredited institutions in the Northwest region of the United States, or discussing policy and educational issues in Washington, D.C.

“I’m very excited that we’re working with Capilano to make seamless borders and are doing what we do best—offering the highest quality

of programming to our students,” she said.

As is often the case in interviews, first impressions make the most powerful impact. It was raining on October 24, the day the 12-member NWCCU evaluation team arrived for its three-day visit. But for Sandra, a Seattle resident, that only created a feeling of home.

“You have the best of what the Pacific Northwest has to offer,” she said, segueing into her initial opinion of Capilano’s application. “You provided a very thoughtful approach to the self-study. I especially liked the fact that you began by answering the question, ‘Why accreditation?’”

Why accreditation, indeed. Currently, Canada is a country without a national accrediting body. Universities with a research focus are using membership in the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada to recognize their role. However, no such organization exists to recognize the role of teaching focused institutions, such

as Capilano. The accreditation process will help this institution understand its goals and roles, while inviting a regulatory body to offer judgment.

Sandra, who is not an official member of the evaluation team, sees her role as that of ambassador and offers a more pragmatic approach to the accreditation process.

“We’re here to validate the self-study and affirm that you meet eligibility requirements for accreditation,” she explained. “If you are accepted as a candidate, you will get the benefits that come from a quality assurance perspective, but you shall also remain who you are.”

The next step for the evaluation team is to prepare a report that will be presented to the NWCCU commissioners. In January 2008, Capilano president, **Dr. Greg Lee**, along with the chair of the NWCCU evaluation team, **Dr. Max Checketts**, will meet with 23 commissioners for an hour-long discussion based upon the evaluators’ report. They will also be asked questions about standards and issues found in the self-study. From that meeting, one of three actions will take place: candidacy for accreditation with the NWCCU will be granted, deferred or denied. If Capilano is granted candidacy, it will have five years to be granted initial accreditation. In the meantime, it will be considered a candidate for accreditation, which means that it will be a member of the NWCCU.

“Membership facilitates the movement of faculty and students between member institutions,” Sandra said, adding, “Capilano is the first Canadian institution to become an applicant and you would join a community of higher educational institutions that share similar academic qualifications and quality in a very competitive arena.

“It’s exciting, important and progressive—both on the part of Capilano and NWCCU—and I look forward to us working together over the coming years.”

Petition presented

Joan McIntyre, MLA for West Vancouver-Garibaldi, presented Capilano’s regional university designation petition with 11,711 signatures to Legislature on October 31. The petition received the support of all MLAs in Capilano’s region, including **Daniel Jarvis**, **Ralph Sultan**, **Katherine Whittred** and **Nicholas Simons**.

“We would like to express our sincere thanks to Joan and all the MLAs, and to everyone who signed our petitions and provided us with their backing over the last six months,” said Capilano president, **Dr. Greg Lee**. “The strong show of support for this initiative has been incredibly heartening, especially as we continue to move forward with our campaign.”

Students scoop awards

Three Capilano students were recent recipients of an Excellence Award from the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation. Second-year University Transfer student, **Leigh Joseph**, received a second level award worth \$4,000, renewable for one additional year. First-year University Transfer student, **Dan Le**, and first-year Motion Picture Production student, **James Simmelsgaard-Brown**, each received a non-renewable third level award of \$4,000.

This year, the Foundation received a total of 1,079 nominations for the national in-course awards from more than 220 post-secondary institutions from across Canada.

Coming soon

Work is in progress to provide employees with access to Frontlines (the employee intranet) from off-campus locations. Once complete, employees will use their computer ID and password to gain entry onto the site. IT Services is hoping that the project will be completed in the next few months.

Capilano U
all about



Left to right, Al Hovden, Susan Mangan and Chris Gratham.

Moodle is here Submitted by Chris Gratham

As you have probably heard, starting April 30, 2008 Capilano will be supporting only one learning management system — Moodle.

Moodle is software designed to help faculty create effective online learning communities. Around for just a few years, Moodle's adoption has been staggering: it is now being used at 34,000 sites worldwide (175 countries and 75 languages) by more than two million instructors.

Not only is Moodle better and cheaper than WebCT, but WebCT's future is uncertain at best. WebCT was recently bought out by their chief competitor, Blackboard, and

the company will not support our current version of WebCT.

Furthermore, the version of WebCT that we would have to upgrade to is only a stopgap measure as it, too, will soon be replaced with a new and different product. With Moodle, we can choose to upgrade if, and when, we want.

Moodle's popularity is due in part to the fact that it is free and open source software. Here, free is used in the sense of liberty—think free speech—as well as in the sense of cost—think free beer. This means

that we don't pay any licensing fees and are free to run, adapt, and redistribute the software for any purpose.

Moodle is based on the pedagogical principles of social constructionism—the idea that we build knowledge and meaning most successfully out of collaborative community experiences and build things together for others to view and use—and includes a number of tools to facilitate those types of activities. You can use Moodle simply as a repository for course resources, but it really shines when used with the interactive group activities.

The Educational Technology Resource Centre is here to help you convert to, or get started with, Moodle. For general questions, contact Chris at local 1780, or **Susan Mangan** or **Alan Hovden** at the Ed Tech help line at local 7960.

Many members of Capilano's community have helped us prepare for these changes. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of **Gerry MacKinnon**, **Jason Madar**, and **Tamara Dakic**.

To request a new Moodle course, or convert a WebCT course to Moodle, visit <https://etrc.capcollege.bc.ca/main/?q=node/moodlerequestcourse>

Record attendance

More than 135 counsellors attended Capilano's High School Counsellors Conference on Friday, October 12—the best attendance yet!

The Marketing and Communications department, in partnership with the Advising Centre, organizes this important recruitment event every two years. Counsellors and career advisors from secondary schools and adult education centres across the Lower Mainland and beyond come to learn more about Capilano's offerings.

Surveys of the delegates indicate that they each provide post-secondary information and counselling to 600 students on average each year. With 94 schools represented at this year's event, this group was a conduit to more than 55,000 students.

Some counsellor comments included: "Loved it! Felt like I'd like to come here. I'd love to send my daughter here." "Motivating, inspiring educators rejuvenated me!" "Informative, well organized,



More high school counsellors attended this year's conference than ever before.

always a first-class presentation."

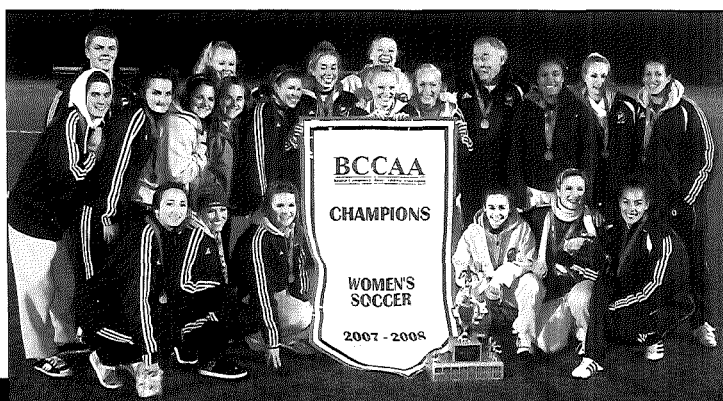
Thank you to everyone who supported the event!

Provincial champs

The Capilano Blues women's soccer team upset the number one ranked Langara Falcons October 28 to win the 2007 British Columbia Colleges'

Athletic Association provincial championships. This earned the team the right to represent B.C. at the Canadian Colleges' Athletic

Association national soccer championships in Halifax, Nova Scotia. This is the eighth BCCAA title in 13 years for the Blues with **Doug Abercrombie** as head coach. The men's team was upset and came away with the BCCAA silver medal, losing to the Thompson Rivers Wolf Pack. Blues women's player, **Sarah Bolton**, was named the MVP and Tournament Best Forward. **Corey Birza** from the men's team was named BCCAA Player of the Year, CCAA Player of the Year and All-Canadian.



Education Council report

by Dr. Robert Campbell

At its November meeting, Education Council welcomed new and re-elected members: **Laurie Jensen** (faculty, regional campuses), **Dr. Tony Cusanelli** (faculty, Pure and Applied Sciences), **Lindsay Kasting** and **Noah Fine** (students).

Council also approved 66 bachelor's degree applicants (35 in Business Administration, seven in Jazz Studies, five in Music Therapy and 19 in Tourism Management). Congratulations to all. Incidentally, Convocation is on November 27 at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. in the Performing Arts Theatre.

Catherine Vertesi gave a detailed report on international contracts. Capilano is involved in a wide range of international activities—from student and faculty exchanges to tourism development—in countries that include China, Vietnam, Paraguay, Japan, and Saudi Arabia.

We also examined a proposal from the Registrar to re-allocate the 10 faculty seats on Council. Members will take the proposal back to their constituencies for continued discussion. Finally, Council passed a resolution requesting that Capilano look at the possibility of developing credit programming in Labour Studies.

informer

Vol. XXVIII No. 9

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Deadline for the December issue is: **Monday, November 26, 2007**. Submissions (including photographs) may be edited for brevity and clarity and will appear online.